

REMARKS

In the present Office Action, claims 1-27 were examined and rejected and claims 1, 20, 24, 26, and 27 were objected to. By way of this response, Applicant hereby amends claims 1, 12, 20, 24, 26, and 27. In view of these Amendments and the Remarks submitted herewith, Applicant believes that claims 1-27 in present form are in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying certain typographical errors to claims 1, 20, 24, 26 and 27. Applicant believes that the present amendments address these errors.

Claim Rejections

In the March 2004 Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Quigley (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0119271). Claims 6-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also in view of Quigley.

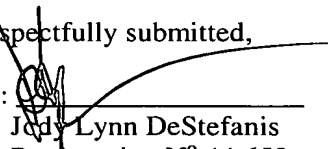
Quigley discloses the use of a fiber optic system in a spoolable tube. As described at paragraph [0002] of the Quigley reference, the tube of Quigley must be "spoolable so that the tube can be used in conjunction with one well and then transported on a reel to another well." However, in contrast to Quigley, the present invention transmits signals from multiple sensors measuring different environmental effects using a common energy conductor or telemetry permanently deployed in the oilfield (see page 6, lines 13-14 and page 8, line 22 of the present patent application). There is no motivation or suggestion in Quigley to use a fiber optic system permanently deployed in the oilfield. It is noted that independent claims 1, 12, and 20 are hereby amended to more clearly reflect this embodiment.

Applicant asserts that the claims, as presently amended, are distinguishable over the Quigley reference. Accordingly, the cited reference does not anticipate or make obvious the present invention, either alone or in combination. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

While Applicant believes that no fees are due at this time, in the event that a fee is due in connection with this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0615.

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Schlumberger-Doll Research
36 Old Quarry Road
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877-4108
Phone: (203) 431-5505

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Jody Lynn DeStefanis
Registration N° 44,653